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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,724	06/22/2006	Noriyoshi Okuzono	20619/0204948-US0	9925
25944	7590	06/15/2010	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			NGUYEN, DUNG V	
P.O. BOX 320850				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/15/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/596,724	Applicant(s) OKUZONO ET AL.	
	Examiner Dung Van Nguyen	Art Unit 3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickey et al (USP 6,240,588). Dickey et al discloses a core 200 for a cleaning sponge roller, the core 250 being in a substantially cylindrical shape comprising a bore 270 extending in a axial direction and a plurality of small holes 260 communicating between the bore 270 and circumferential outer surface of the core 250, wherein the plurality of small holes 260 are distributed both in circumferential direction and in axial direction of the core 250 and aligned along a straight lines in the axial direction, grooves 252 recessed in the circumferential outer surface of the core 250 extend in the axial direction of the core 250, diameter of the bore 270 is between 0.060 and .35 (1.524 - 8.98 mm), diameter of the small holes is between .005 and .092 (0.12 - 2.34 mm), a flanges 251 and 253 are attached to the end of the core 250, in the circumferential direction of the core 250, six grooves 252 are positioned at even interval (note Fig. 1-6, col. 5, line 56 to col. 8, line 19). Dickey et al does not disclose expressly the diameter of the bore is 10 to 20 mm, diameter of small holes is 2.5 to 5 mm, a total of cross-sectional areas of the openings of the plurality of the small holes is larger than a cross-section area of the bore, or 1.2 to 5 times larger, the number of small holes in one groove is 2 to 5, or takes a repeat pattern of 2, 3 or 4. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select the

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above ranges, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. Please note that in the instant application, applicant has not disclosed any criticality for the claimed limitations.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 2 April 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Dickey fails to teach and would not have been rendered obvious the claimed structure of independent claim 1 and both diameters of the bore and small holes are much smaller of claim 1. The argument is not persuasive since applicant has not provide evidence to show that the claimed ranges of claim 1 are critical by showing that the particular ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art ranges.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

5. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Van Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4490. The examiner can normally be reached on PHP Program.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dung Van Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3723